

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

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R 171104Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7296

SECDEF

INFO: RUEKJCS/OSD/ISA

CSA

JCS (J-5)

CNO

CSAF

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0106

OSD FOR COLONEL KERSEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, GB

SUBJ: MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 0087

1. FINAL VERSION OF GOG LISTS OF REQUESTED MILITARY MATERIEL RECEIVED BY EMBASSY MORNING JANUARY 17 UNDER COVER OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BONGO. RELEVANT PORTION OF LETTER, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FORD, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SENDING OF THREE OFFICERS "WHO, WITH REMARKABLE DEDICATION, CONDUCTED A COMPLETE REVIEW OF OUR MILITARY NEEDS WITH MY OWN SECURITY SERVICES. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THEIR REPORT AND OUR REQUEST WILL RECEIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE."

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2. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JANUARY 15 PRIOR RECEIPT OF LETTER, HE EXPRESSED ORALLY APPRECIATION FOR WORK OF TEAM SUBSEQUENTLY CONVEYED IN WRITING. PRESIDENT ALSO COMMENTED WRITINGLY THAT HE HAD TAXED HIS SECURITY SERVICES WITH HAVING BEEN "GOURMAND" (GREEDY) IN PREPARING LISTS OF REQUIREMENTS, BUT THAT HE NONETHELESS HOPED USG WOULD RECOGNIZE SERIOUSNESS OF GABONESE NEEDS AND WOULD BE ABLE RESPOND POSITIVELY TO GOG REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. PRESIDENT CLOSED MEETING BY STRESSING THAT SPEED OF USG REPLY IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS ITS CONTENT, SINCE GOG MUST KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE NATURE AND EXTENT OF USG ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO PLAN FOR COUNTRY'S OVERALL DEFENSE NEEDS.

4. LISTS ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENTIAL LETTER SHOW FOLLOWING CHANGES FROM COPIES HELD HERE OF LISTS CARRIED BACK BY TEAM:

(A) FOR GENDARMETIE, FICHE 5 CHANGED TO SHOW REQUEST FOR 4 HELICOPTERE LOURD VICE 1;

(B) FOR GENDARMERIE, FICHE 6 (OF WHICH NO COPY HELD HERE) REQUESTING MOYENS NAUTIQUES ASKS FOR 10 BATEAU PNEUMATIQUE AVEC MOTEUR HORS-BORD; 5 VEDETTE 32 PIEDS AVEC EQUIPEMENT COMPLET; AND 10 BATEAU DE RIVIERE A FOND PLAT AVEC MOTEUR HORS-BORD;

(C) FOR GENDARMERIE, NEW SUMMARY SHEET FOR ARMORED PLATOONS SHOWS TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR THREE PLATOONS OF 90 PISTOLET AUTOMATIQUE; 63 FUSIL ASSAUT; 3 JEEP; 6 CAMION; 3 "DEUX ROULANTES" (NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED); 15 ENGIN BLINDE TYPE AML; AND 6 ENGIN BLINDE ANTI-AERIEN AVEC CANON DE 20 OU 57 MM;

(D) FOR PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, ITEM TWO ON LIST CLARIFIED TO SHOW REQUEST FOR 6 EACH ON CATEGORIES LISTED UNDER VEHICULES DE COMBAT ET BLINDES, INDICATING DESIRE TO HAVE ONE PLATOON WITH EACH TYPE OF EQUIPMENT BUT SIX OF EACH ITEM REQUESTED.

5. SURETE LIST REMAINS AS AMENDED BY LIBREVILLE 0084.STEIGMAN
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